

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 EB-08 /068 W
-----106112 150451Z /73
R 141625Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9676

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1188

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MASS, NG
SUBJECT: NIGER REQUEST FOR C-130S

REF: A. NIAMEY 640, B. NIAMEY 5737 (1977)

1. THE CHIEF OF STATE CONVOKED MLX TODAY TO FOLLOW UP THE REQUEST FOR TWO C-130S SUBMITTED TO US BY FONMIN DJERMAKOYE ON FEBRUARY 9, 1978 (REFTEL A). I PROVIDED HIM A SUMMARY IN FRENCH OF THE MILITARY SALES INFO SENT BY DEPT. HE RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY THAT NIGER WOULD PREFER TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL PURCHASE, I.E., THROUGH THE AUSPICES OF DEPT. OF DEFENSE. THE GON WILL TRANSMIT AN OFFICIAL REQUEST UPON THE RETURN FROM LIBREVILLE OF THE FONMIN. INNOBVIOUS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE PROJECTED 1980 SUBMISSION, HE MENTIONED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE SALE COULD BE CONSUMATED BEFORE.

2. THE CHIEF OF STATE SPENT SOME MOMENTS EXTOLLING THE VIRTUES OF THE C-130 "THE BEST MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THE WORLD." HE COMPARED IT VERY FAVORABLY TO THE NORD-ATLAS TRANSPORT PROMISED THEM BY FRG, REF B, MENTIONING LACK OF SPARES, AGE, AND LIMITED LOAD CAPACITY OF THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ITS INABILITY TO TRANSPORT A FULL DETACHMENT OF PARACHUTISTS (PRESUMABLY A COMPANY).

3. AS INDICATED REFTTEL A, THE NIGERIANS ARE BEGINNING TO
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SHOW A MUCH GREATER CONCERN FOR THEIR INTERNAL SECURITY FOLLOWING THE TROUBLES IN NORTHERN CHAD. WHILE PUBLICLY KOUNTCHE IS THE POLITICIAN STATEMAN PROCLAIMING FRIENDSHIP AND REASONABLENESS ON THE PART OF HIS NORTHERN NEIGHBORS, KOUNTCHE THE SOLDIER IS QUIETLY PREPARING TO DEFEND HIS VULNERABLE PERIMETER. OBVIOUSLY HE IS PUTTING HIS FAITH IN A SMALL, EFFECTIVE AND HIGHLY MOBILE FORCE. HE PRACTICED

HIS RATIONALE FOR THE C-130 PURCHASE DURING OUR DISCUSSION
BY RELATING HOW SO MANY OF THE AFRICAN NATIONS HAVE C-130S.
KEEPING UP WITH THE MOBUTU JONES IS NOT IN KOUNTCHE CHARACTER.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE 044693 WE WILL SUBMIT REQUEST
FOR P AND A DATA ALONG WITH JUSTIFICATION WHEN WE HAVE OFFICIAL
GON REQUEST IN HAND.JAMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NIAEMEY01188
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: NIAEMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780371/aaaacicc.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: PINT, MASS, NG
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